

Message Text

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17

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 /039 W

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R 201449Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1548

INFO NASA HQS WASHDC

JET PROPULSION LABORATORY PASADENA CA

NASA/PASADENA OFFICE PASADENA CA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0998

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

NASA HQS FOR BES, L.T. WITCZAK, JPL/171-209, V.TARANTINO JF-32 (MAH)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF

SUBJECT: ABANDONMENT IN PLACE OF NASA PROPERTY AT ITS SOUTH
AFRICAN DEEP SPACE TRACKING STATION

1. FOR DEPT BACKGROUND: BY TELEGRAM DATED MAR 14, NASA PASADENA REQUESTED EMBASSY CONCURRENCE FOR ABANDONMENT IN PLACE OF FOREIGN EXCESS PROPERTY VALUED AT \$3,095,000. MESSAGE FURTHER STATED ACTION BEING WITHHELD PENDING REPLY AND WAS SIGNED BY EARLE J. SAMPLE, DIRECTOR NAPO.

2. FACILITY INVOLVED IS NASA DEEP SPACE TRACKING STATION UNDER SUPERVISION OF JET PROPULSION LABORATORY (JPL) PASADENA AND OPERATED LOCALLY BY SA COUNCIL SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR), FOR THOSE FAMILIAR WITH SITE THIS IS OPERATION IN VALLEY NOT RPT NOT NASA STADIN FACILITY ON TOP OF HILL. JPL HAS BEEN CLOSING OUT DEEP SPACE FACILITY FOR SOME TIME. NASA PROPERTY WHICH COULD BE ECONOMICALLY TRANSFERRED ELSEWHERE HAS BEEN SHIPPED ALREADY. LARKIN, WHO IS JPL REP IN SOUTH AFRICA, STATED THAT PROPERTY TO BE ABANDONED IN PLACE CONSISTS OF BUILDINGS, DISC
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ANTENNA, OUTMODED GENERATORS AND ELECTRONIC GEAR. THIS PROPERTY

WOULD ACTUALLY BE TAKEN OVER BY CSIR FOR RADIO ASTRONOMY RESEARCH RESULTS OF WHICH, LARKIN STATED, WILL BE OF CONTINUING INTEREST TO NASA AND JPL. LARKIN ALSO EMPHASIZED CARE AND CORRECTNESS WITH WHICH CSIR LIVED UP TO CONTRACT, STATING NASA RELATIONS WITH CSIR HAS BEEN OUTSTANDINGLY GOOD AND THAT CSIR HAD BEEN BEST OF ALL ITS MANY FOREIGN CONTRACTORS WORLDWIDE. BUILDINGS ARE SITUATED ON CSIR LAND.

3. LARKIN NOTED THAT BLACK AFRICAN SCHOOL AT SITE BUILT BY NASA ORIGINALLY FOR CHILDREN OF ITS EMPLOYEES WILL CONTINUE IN OPERATION, DRAWING ON SURROUNDING AREAS FOR PUPILS UP TO ITS CAPACITY OF 115 STUDENTS. SOME OF PROPERTY BEING ABANDONED, E.G., ELECTRIC GENERATORS,

WILL SUPPORT SCHOOL. OTHER "ABANDONED" FACILITIES, E.G. MESS HALL, WILL CONTINUE IN USE BECAUSE THEY ARE NEEDED TO SUPPORT STADIN FACILITY.

4. EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION TO ABANDONMENT IN PLACE OF THIS NASA PROPERTY AND PROVIDED DEPT CONCURS, IT WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT SO NOTIFYING NASA ADDRESSES DIRECTLY WITH COPY TO PRETORIA AND CAPETOWN.

5. FOREGOING COORDINATED WITH AMBASSADOR HURD IN CAPETOWN.
HURD

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
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